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| Logo of Dignity Alliance Massachusetts with tag line "respect. self-determination. choices."  Description generated with high confidence | The Tuesday Digest  Issue # 61 October 25, 2021  *The Tuesday Digest* is information complied by Dignity Alliance Massachusetts concerning long-term services, support, living options, and care issued each Tuesday. | | |
|  | \*May require registration before accessing article. | | |
| Quotes of the Week | *[S]imple interactions with deaf people . . . will reveal the truth of deafness as just another way of being human. As deafness is normalized, it will be easy to remember to save us seats at the tables at which you organize your events or draw up building plans for your theaters, so we can offer a fresh perspective on what works best, for all of us. One in four future readers may be grateful.*  Sara Novic, a writer and instructor of deaf studies at Stockton University in New Jersey, *Don't Fear a Future with More Deaf People,* **New York Times (free access),** October 10, 2021, <https://tinyurl.com/DontFearMoreDeafPeople>  *The extremes of disabled representation that we usually find in mainstream media — superhuman disabled people on the one hand, pitiful creatures in need of a cure on the other — are created, almost exclusively, by nondisabled people for nondisabled people. This perhaps explains why they are so redundant and out of touch with our experience.*  Dr. M. Leona Godin, a writer, performer and educator and the author of “There Plant Eyes: A Personal and Cultural History of Blindness.”, *Helen Keller and the Problem of ‘Inspiration Porn’,* **New York Times (free access),** October 10, 2021, <https://tinyurl.com/ProblemOfInspirationPorn>  *“Vaccines turn Covid into a mild disease,” [b]ut mild infections can “kill vulnerable people,”*  Dr. Ashish Jha, dean of the Brown University School of Public Health, *The Threat, in Perspective,* **New York Times (free access),** October 19, 2021,  <https://tinyurl.com/TheThreatInPerspective>  *People who want to prevent flu infection should get their seasonal flu vaccine. They should also now feel more comfortable using masks. The use of masks, along with washing hands, appears to* [*reduce transmission of flu to others within households*](https://www.acpjournals.org/doi/10.7326/0003-4819-151-7-200910060-00142)*.*  Linsey Marr, professor at Virginia Tech and expert on the airborne transmission of viruses, *What We Know About Covid, the Flu and the Air We Breathe*, **\*New York Times,** October 19, 2021, <https://tinyurl.com/WhatWeKnowAboutCovid>  *You can buy reading glasses at Walgreens without a prescription. Perhaps by this time next year, you’ll be able to do the same with an officially labeled hearing aid at a cost of a few hundred dollars.*  *A hearing aid for everyone,* **\*New York Times,** October 20, 2021, <https://tinyurl.com/HearingAidForEveryone>  *“I met some beautiful people on this scooter by traveling around — the coffee shop, Veteran’s Park.”*  Kenny Jary, 79 year old Navy veteran, inspiration for Tik Tok sensation, “Patriotic Kenny Needs a Ride”, *Broken-down mobility scooter propels Navy veteran to TikTok fame, tests limits of generosity,* **Stars and Stripes,** September 27, 2021, <https://tinyurl.com/BrokenDownMobilityScooter>  *“I love the sound of Wagner tubas.”*  Russian-born composer Sofia Gubaidulina on turning 90 years old, *At 90, a Composer Is Still Sending Out Blasts,* **\*New York Times,** October 21, 2021, <https://tinyurl.com/CompserStillSendingBlasts>  *“It’s a huge disappointment.”*  Brian Skorney, an analyst at Robert W. Baird & Company, commenting on the slow sales of the Alzheimer’s drug, Aduhelm, *Sales of Biogen’s costly new Alzheimer’s drug fall far short of expectations,* **\*New York Times,** October 21, 2021, <https://tinyurl.com/ShortOfExpectations>  *“Disability drives innovation. It’s undeniable. . . Almost always when you find something that is really cool for people with disabilities. It will find its way into the mainstream in a way that is wonderful and makes life better.”*  Joshua Miele, a blind adaptive technology designer and recipient of a MacArthur Foundation” genius” grant, *‘Disability Drives Innovation,’* **\*New York Times,** October 18, 2021, <https://tinyurl.com/DisabilityDrivesInnovation>  *“Please have no leniency on me. To remain in prison for the rest of my life would be the greatest honor you could give me.”*  Sister Megan Rice, *Sister Megan Rice, Fierce Critic of U.S. Nuclear Arsenal, Dies at 91,* **\*New York Times,** October 18, 2021, <https://tinyurl.com/SisterMeganRice>  *“The threat from pharma is that if we do anything to make pricing reasonable, then the person we love won’t be able to get the drug they need. It’s preying on the anxiety of every one of us.”*  *Rep. Peter Welch (D., VT), Medicare Drug-Pricing Debate Pits Savings Against Innovation,* **Wall Street Journal,** October 12, 2021, <https://tinyurl.com/MedicareDrugPricingDebate>  *“What we’re seeing usually is improvement but not complete recovery. ‘So now I can smell again. Now I can go up that flight of stairs again. I can go back to work but I still need to lay down when I get home.’”*  Dr. Daniel Griffin, chief of the division of infectious diseases, ProHealth NY, New Hyde Park, *Vaccines Help Fight Long Covid,* **Wall Street Journal (free access),** October 12, 2021, <https://tinyurl.com/VaccinesHe6lpFightLongCovid>  *Discussing mental health is important, but actively understanding the intersection of ableism and mental health is a necessary step in bringing the disability community into the conversation.*  *How Ableism Affects the Mental Health of Disabled People,* **The Mighty,** May 30, 2021, <https://tinyurl.com/AbleismAffectsMentalHealth>  *“The backbone of every health system is its workforce — the people who deliver the services on which we rely at some point in our lives. The pandemic is a powerful demonstration of just how much we rely on health workers and how vulnerable we all are when the people who protect our health are themselves unprotected.”*  WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, *WHO estimate: 115,000 health workers have died from Covid-19, as calls for vaccine access grow,* **STAT News,** October 21, 2021, <https://tinyurl.com/115000HealthWorkersDied>  *“It was legitimately weird. Just the act of standing was probably almost as alien to me as floating in zero gravity.”*  Eric Ingram, a 31-year-old who has Freeman-Sheldon Syndrome, a rare condition that affects his joints, commenting on his experience onboard a parabolic flight that carried 12 people with physical disabilities to see how they would fare in a zero gravity environment, *A Future for People With Disabilities in Outer Space Takes Flight,* **\*New York Times,** October 25, 2021 (updated), <https://tinyurl.com/DisabilitiesInOuterSpace>  *Patients and families are an important part of the diagnostic team, but their experiences with breakdowns are not reflected in most currently used diagnostic measures. As a result, organisations may miss important events that can lead to diagnostic delay, error, and harm as well as unique insights held by patients and families about how to improve the diagnostic process.*  *Filling a gap in safety metrics: development of a patient- centred framework to identify and categorise patient- reported breakdowns related to the diagnostic process in ambulatory care,* **BMJ Quality & Safety,** October 16, 2021,  <https://tinyurl.com/BMJSafetyMeasuresArticle>  *Open captioning could attract more viewers back to theaters amid pandemic. It's also part of Hollywood's effort to improve accessibility.*  *Coming soon to 250 AMC cinemas: English subtitles on every film,* **Marketplace (NPR audio report),** October 25, 2021, <https://tinyurl.com/EnglishSubstitlesEveryFilm>  *"Captions aren't harmful to the experience, but help millions enjoy the movie more. Well done! Absolutely phenomenal!"*  American Paralympian Chuck Aoki, *The world's largest movie theater chain is adding open captions at 240 U.S. locations,* **NPR,** October 21, 2021, <https://tinyurl.com/AddingOpenCaptions>  *[A]dults older than 60 were nearly five times as likely as adults aged 20 to 59 to report losing money to a tech support scam. Older adults were nearly three times more likely to report a loss to a prize, lottery, or sweepstakes scam, and more than twice as likely to report losing money to a friend or family impersonator scam.*  *FTC Issues Annual Report to Congress on Protecting Older Adults,* **Federal Trade Commission,** October 18, 2021, <https://tinyurl.com/FTCAnnualReportOct2021>  *Incarceration is a structural determinant of individual health that* [*also worsens population health*](https://healthandjusticejournal.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/2194-7899-1-3)*. People who are incarcerated are* [*more likely*](https://academic.oup.com/cid/article/45/8/1047/344842) *than the general population to experience a chronic condition or acquire an infectious disease. In the past year, people who were incarcerated were about* [*five times more likely*](https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama/fullarticle/2768249) *than the general population to test positive for COVID-19.*  *Incarceration Is a Health Threat. Why Isn’t It Monitored Like One?,* **Health Affairs Blog,** October 19, 2021, <https://tinyurl.com/IncarecerationAHealthThreat>  *“Over the years, our number one call, email [and] letter is from people who can’t afford hearing aids, or they don’t have access to an audiologist or hearing aid specialist.”*  Barbara Kelley, executive director of the Hearing Loss Association of America, *Hearing aids without a prescription or an exam? The FDA takes big step toward making that happen.,* **\*Washington Post,** October 19, 2021, <https://tinyurl.com/HearingAidsNoPrescription>  *“The rates of people reporting that there’s been a disruption to their mental health and well-being have nearly doubled from pre-pandemic among adults. And for some kids, it’s actually higher — young adults, 18 to 24. [Even pre-pandemic,] We did not have enough treatment professionals.”*  Danna Mauch, president and CEO of the Massachusetts Association for Mental Health, *It’s becoming impossible to find a therapist,* **\*Boston Globe,** October 16, 2021, Is it all because of COVID-19? And what do we do about it?, <https://tinyurl.com/ImpossibleFindTherapist>  *When I started using a manual wheelchair, I was having a lot of trouble fitting into the bathroom in the office my law partner and I shared. My partner came in one day with the tools to take the bathroom door off its hinges and change its swing from in to out. (I can’t say that we asked the landlord’s permission.) Although I still had trouble using it because the bathroom lacked grab bars, at least I could then get in. There was a handicapped-accessible bathroom somewhere in the 10-story building, but it was on a wholly different floor in someone else’s office, so it was totally inconvenient for me. Massachusetts law does not require offices that are not open to the public to have accessible bathrooms.*  Carol Steinberg, Boston-based attorney and disability activist,  *Mass. lags badly in workplace accessibility for disability community,* **CommonWealth Magazine,** October 23, 2021, <https://tinyurl.com/MALagsWorkplaceAccessibility>  *When the attacks began, I was a basically healthy woman in her mid-30s — too sedentary, and taking drugs for congenital hypertension, yet nonetheless basically well. They came mildly at first, with a kind of choking sensation in my throat, followed by dizzy spells that I put down to low blood sugar. But candy didn’t help, and the attacks gradually became more frequent, and much worse: waves of nausea, dimming vision, a roaring in my ears, followed by mild mental confusion and an embarrassing tendency to keel over.*  Megan McArdle, a **Washington Post** columnist and the author of "The Up Side of Down: Why Failing Well Is the Key to Success.", *The special torment of mysterious chronic illness,* **\*Washington Post,** October 25, 2021, <https://tinyurl.com/TormentMysteriousIllness>  *Instead of feeling like I was falling apart, I felt like my body was a cage of pain in which my self was somehow prisoned. And instead of being simply ill, I became what I would remain for years: a chronic-illness case.*  Russ Douthat, **New York Times** columnist and author of “The Deep Places: A Memoir of Illness and Discovery.”, *How I Became a Sick Person,* **New York Times (free access),** October 23, 2021, <https://tinyurl.com/NYTHowIBevcameASickPerson> | | |
| Featured Essays | 1. **New York Times (free access)**   October 10, 2021  *Helen Keller and the Problem of ‘Inspiration Porn’*  [Dr. M. Leona Godin, a writer, performer and educator and the author of “There Plant Eyes: A Personal and Cultural History of Blindness.”] see[s Helen} Keller’s mainstream image and story as a textbook example of “[inspiration porn](https://www.nytimes.com/2021/09/05/sports/olympics/inspiration-porn-paralympians-know-it-when-they-see-it.html),” where disabled people’s lives are flattened into saccharine narratives about overcoming adversity, usually designed to make nondisabled people feel uplifted and grateful. . . In “The Radical Lives of Helen Keller” I found a new sort of narrative, and it was a revelation. I learned about Keller’s expansive and often controversial work to promote human rights — for women, for workers, for people of color. I learned that in her long life (1880-1968) she was a socialist, a suffragist and a founding member of the American Civil Liberties Union. And of special interest to me as an artist, I learned that Keller and her teacher, Anne Sullivan, performed on the vaudeville circuit from 1920 to 1924. I would take that delicious tidbit — which some of her friends called a “deplorable theatrical exhibition”— and spin it into a one-woman show, “The Star of Happiness,” a move that shifted the direction of my life into the arts. . . How can we move our understanding of disability forward by telling and retelling the story of this one amazing but decades-gone figure? Today’s disabled artists, writers and activists are responding to a world entirely changed since Keller gave her last speech in 1961. Yet, with some exceptions, our mainstream conversations about disability have stagnated. . . The extremes of disabled representation that we usually find in mainstream media — superhuman disabled people on the one hand, pitiful creatures in need of a cure on the other — are created, almost exclusively, by nondisabled people for nondisabled people. This perhaps explains why they are so redundant and out of touch with our experience. It would be laughable if those images did not translate directly into discrimination in the workplace, in the medical establishment, in our creative institutions. I and other blind writers experience this in both obvious and subtle ways. For instance, we often hear from editors and other decision makers, “Oh, we like this work, but we just published a blind author.” Culturally speaking, it reinforces the idea that we can have only one blind person at a time in the room.  <https://tinyurl.com/ProblemOfInspirationPorn>   1. **New York Times (free access)**   October 10, 2021  *Don't Fear a Future with More Deaf People*  [W]hat if the population of deaf and hard-of-hearing people were to grow?  In March 2021, the World Health Organization released a report predicting that unless measures like increased access to health care and noise protection are enacted, [2.5 billion people worldwide, or one in four people on Earth, will have some degree of hearing loss by 2050](https://www.who.int/news/item/02-03-2021-who-1-in-4-people-projected-to-have-hearing-problems-by-2050). Nearly 700 million of them will experience hearing loss ranging from moderate to profound, a 63 percent increase from today’s numbers. . .  An uptick in global noise pollution and unsafe listening practices, childhood disease resurgences because of vaccine hesitancy or limited international availability, the use of ototoxic antibiotics and a lack of preventive ear and hearing care and hearing care specialists worldwide are some of the main causes of hearing loss cited in the W.H.O.’s report. . .  Today’s world isn’t ready for a deaf future, but it can be. Rather than an approach that’s reactive and narrow — like [CRISPR-editing hereditary deaf people out of the genome](https://www.discovermagazine.com/health/why-deaf-people-oppose-using-gene-editing-to-cure-deafness), or heaping on retroactive accommodations designed to maintain the status quo — we can take a proactive, cultural approach that incorporates universal design, dismantles structural barriers and includes deaf people from the ground up. . .  Closed captioning is an inexpensive and widely available technology. Since listening and speech-reading is largely dependent on context and atmospheric conditions — for example, whether there is background noise — even those of the projected 2.5 billion people experiencing mild degrees of hearing loss are likely to benefit from captioned material. . . If captions were simply played on the big screen, everyone could enjoy the film together.  <https://tinyurl.com/DontFearMoreDeafPeople>   1. **\*Washington Post**   October 25, 2021  *The special torment of mysterious chronic illness*  by Megan McArdle, a **Washington Post** columnist and the author of "The Up Side of Down: Why Failing Well Is the Key to Success."  It is bad enough to be sick, but worse still to stay that way for months and years on end. And some of the worst agony is reserved for the people with mystery ailments — or those who believe themselves to be suffering from a disease such as chronic Lyme, which most doctors [doubt exists](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4477530/).  <https://tinyurl.com/TormentMysteriousIllness>   1. **New York Times (free access)**   October 23, 2021  *How I Became a Sick Person*  by Russ Douthat, **New York Times** columnist and author of “The Deep Places: A Memoir of Illness and Discovery.”  The long-term form of Covid-19 has something in common with other forms of chronic illness — strange and varied symptoms, lasting debilitation, no certain treatment. But unlike other such conditions, which tend to creep up on society, long-haul Covid arrived suddenly, creating a [large pool of sufferers](https://www.npr.org/sections/coronavirus-live-updates/2021/09/29/1041501387/coronavirus-long-covid-study-plos-medicine) in a short period of time and afflicting frontline medical workers and younger patients in large numbers.  <https://tinyurl.com/NYTHowIBevcameASickPerson> | | |
| Inspiration | 1. **Today with Hoda & Jenna (video)**   October 21, 2021  *How a 79-year-old Navy veteran became a TikTok sensation*  Kenny Jary is a 79-year-old veteran whose scooter broke and TikTok users raised over $100,000 for buy him a new one. As Jary's following has grown to over 1 million and donations keep pouring in, he pays it forward by buying scooters for fellow veterans.  <https://tinyurl.com/NavyVeteranTikTokSensation> | | |
| Reports | 1. **Federal Trade Commission**   October 18, 2021  *FTC Issues Annual Report to Congress on Protecting Older Adults*  The report, [Protecting Older Consumers, 2020-2021, A Report of the Federal Trade Commission](https://www.ftc.gov/system/files/documents/reports/protecting-older-consumers-2020-2021-report-federal-trade-commission/protecting-older-consumers-report-508.pdf), also includes information on the FTC’s efforts to protect older consumers through law enforcement actions and outreach and education programs. This year’s report calls particular attention to the Commission’s work to combat scams related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Report note Reports of online shopping fraud increased sharply among adults aged 60 and higher in the second quarter of 2020 as online marketers failed to deliver masks and other scarce items needed during the COVID-19 pandemic. The most frequent type of fraud reported by older adults was online shopping scams. Overall, reports of losses to online shopping fraud by older adults more than doubled in 2020, and the numbers continued to be far higher than pre-pandemic levels in the first half of 2021.s jump in online shopping fraud reports since start of COVID-19 pandemic.  <https://tinyurl.com/FTCAnnualReportOct2021>   1. **ASPE Office of Health Policy**   October 5, 2021  *Associations Between County-level Vaccination Rates and COVID-19 Outcomes Among Medicare Beneficiaries*  Analysis of Medicare data and county vaccination rates indicates that COVID-19  vaccinations from January until May 2021 were associated with estimated  reductions of approximately 265,000 COVID-19 infections and 39,000 deaths  among Medicare beneficiaries.  KEY POINTS  • COVID-19 vaccines are a key component in controlling the COVID-19 pandemic. Clinical data show vaccines are highly effective in preventing COVID-19 infections and severe outcomes including hospitalization and death.  • In this analysis of individual-level health data and county-level vaccination rates, we find that higher county vaccination rates were associated with significant reductions in the odds of COVID-19 infection, hospitalization, and death among Medicare fee-for-service (FFS) beneficiaries between January and May 2021.  • Comparing the rates of these outcomes to what our model predicts would have happened without any vaccinations, we estimate COVID-19 vaccinations were linked to estimated reductions of approximately 107,000 infections, 43,000 hospitalizations, and 16,000 deaths in our study sample of 25.3 million beneficiaries. These estimates correspond to estimated reductions of approximately 265,000 infections, 107,000 hospitalizations, and 39,000 deaths  for the full Medicare population of 62.7 million people.  • After accounting for the potential underreporting of COVID-19 deaths in Medicare FFS claims data, and considering alternative models, the number of deaths prevented among the full Medicare population could plausibly range from 12,000 to 49,000 deaths.  • Reductions in cumulative weekly deaths were found nationally, for all racial and ethnic groups, and across all 48 states included in our sample.  • The difference in vaccination rates for those age 65 and older between the lowest (34%) and highest (85%) counties and states by the end of May highlights the continued opportunity to leverage COVID-19 vaccinations to prevent COVID-19 hospitalizations and deaths.  <https://tinyurl.com/CountyLevelVaccinationRates>   1. **Administration of Community Living**   October 2021  *Adult Maltreatment Report 2020*  ACL released a [report on the fifth year of data](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https:/click.connect.hhs.gov/?qs=d9c719aefb7667b4f72e5aef53d73af5099c2b1f19b7d368c4ebd13a9b2275a8e9265e2ab57ed680e7bfe7d29cca67e9a032d7dc3b690b4f__;!!JkGBRS3n8cDS!08clHhJl-h7dY-tbHXpEpZ3a_XIIKI17z8mUWQ9f4FDQChLNceWyCqyErj8vqnVh939lUbc$) collected by the [National Adult Maltreatment Reporting System (NAMRS)](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https:/click.connect.hhs.gov/?qs=d9c719aefb7667b47b8d2cefc265671446dcd8553529c95f123898e27e4c51f3d0f3e30862d91fdba1e20bddb66d73216cdede3cbe2e6265__;!!JkGBRS3n8cDS!08clHhJl-h7dY-tbHXpEpZ3a_XIIKI17z8mUWQ9f4FDQChLNceWyCqyErj8vqnVhmNtg1mM$). NAMRS is the only comprehensive national initiative compiling data on the abuse, neglect, and exploitation of older adults and adults with disabilities as reported to state adult protective services (APS). NAMRS collects quantitative and qualitative data on state APS practices and policies, and the results of investigations into the maltreatment of older adults and adults with disabilities. The report includes data on complaints received by APS, types of allegations, outcomes of investigations, characteristics of alleged victims and perpetrators, and more. In the 2020 reporting year, APS programs received more than 1.3 million complaints of alleged adult maltreatment, a slight decrease compared to the previous year, potentially attributable to the COVID-19 pandemic. The year five report includes data from every state and territorial Adult Protective Services system in the nation. This wide-spread voluntary participation reflects the value that leaders in the field see in collecting national data on adult maltreatment. The quantity and consistency of data submissions to NAMRS continues to improve with each passing year. Understanding the nature and extent of adult maltreatment—and the ways APS programs respond to it—is critical to enhancing the effectiveness of APS programs. NAMRS has sparked significant improvements in APS data collection and submission, and subsequently in the understanding of adult maltreatment. In this year’s report, the [APS TARC](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https:/click.connect.hhs.gov/?qs=4804d95bba6acff3ceb133a027ed5f4757d78a5a852aed38ae6e01108728b6caad2ec9a358177c4912ced13965877724e868efc6634fd89c__;!!JkGBRS3n8cDS!08clHhJl-h7dY-tbHXpEpZ3a_XIIKI17z8mUWQ9f4FDQChLNceWyCqyErj8vqnVhE0-3A08$) (Adult Protective Services Technical Assistance Resource Center) began to look at the potential impact of the COVID-19 on adult maltreatment as reported to state APS programs. This analysis is preliminary and will be expanded next year once the 2021 data collection cycle is completed.  State APS systems investigate reports of abuse and exploitation of older adults and people with disabilities. They provide support and case-management, and connect people facing abuse to a variety of protective, emergency, and support services. NAMRS is one of many ACL initiatives to build public and professional understanding about adult maltreatment and strengthen social supports to prevent it. Learn more about the [National Adult Maltreatment Reporting System (NAMRS)](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https:/click.connect.hhs.gov/?qs=d9c719aefb7667b47b8d2cefc265671446dcd8553529c95f123898e27e4c51f3d0f3e30862d91fdba1e20bddb66d73216cdede3cbe2e6265__;!!JkGBRS3n8cDS!08clHhJl-h7dY-tbHXpEpZ3a_XIIKI17z8mUWQ9f4FDQChLNceWyCqyErj8vqnVhmNtg1mM$).  Download the report: <https://tinyurl.com/AdultMaltreatmentReport2020> | | |
| Featured Article | 1. **BMJ Quality & Safety**   October 16, 2021  *Filling a gap in safety metrics: development of a patient- centred framework to identify and categorise patient- reported breakdowns related to the diagnostic process in ambulatory care*  [Note: Sandy Novack, a Dignity Alliance Massachusetts member and contributor to *The Tuesday Digest*, is a co-author.]  ABSTRACT **Background** Patients and families are important contributors to the diagnostic team, but their perspectives are not reflected in current diagnostic measures.  Patients/families can identify some breakdowns in the diagnostic process beyond the clinician’s view. We aimed to develop a framework with patients/families to help organisations identify and categorise patient- reported diagnostic process- related breakdowns (PRDBs) to inform organisational learning. **Results** The framework describes 7 patient- reported breakdown categories (with 40 subcategories), 19 patient- identified contributing factors and 11 potential  patient- reported impacts. Patients identified breakdowns in each step of the diagnostic process, including missing or inaccurate main concerns and symptoms; missing/outdated test results; and communication breakdowns such as not feeling heard or misalignment between patient and provider about symptoms, events, or their significance.  <https://tinyurl.com/BMJSafetyMeasuresArticle> | | |
| Lives Well Lived | 1. **\*New York Times**   October 18, 2021  *Sister Megan Rice, Fierce Critic of U.S. Nuclear Arsenal, Dies at 91*  Arrested more than 40 times, she was best known for her role in the 2012 break-in at the Oak Ridge nuclear complex in Tennessee. She served two years in prison for breaking into a uranium storage site. “Please have no leniency on me,” she told the judge at her trial. “To remain in prison for the rest of my life would be the greatest honor you could give me.” She was already 82 when, in 2012, she and two other antinuclear activists, Greg Boertje-Obed and Michael Walli, hiked through the night over a steep ridge to the outskirts of the [Y-12 National Security Complex](https://www.y12.doe.gov/) in Oak Ridge, Tenn. “Sister Megan’s only regret about Y-12 was that she didn’t do something like that earlier.”  <https://tinyurl.com/SisterMeganRice> | | |
| Resident Rights Month | 1. **“Reclaiming My Rights, My Home, My Life”**   October 2021  Residents’ Rights Month is an annual event designated by the Consumer Voice and is celebrated in October to honor residents living in all long-term care facilities and consumers receiving services in their home or community. It is a time for celebration and recognition offering an opportunity for every facility to focus on and celebrate awareness of dignity, respect, and the value of each individual resident.  The 2021 Residents’ Rights Month theme, “**Reclaiming My Rights, My Home, My Life**,” acknowledges the impact of this past year on residents and highlights the need for residents’ rights to be recognized, recovered, and reasserted. It emphasizes the recognition of the long-term care facility as the residents’ home, and the importance of residents reclaiming their own lives. The theme focuses on raising awareness of federally mandated residents’ rights while also underscoring the need for dignity and self-determination of all residents.  <https://tinyurl.com/ResidentRightsMonthOct2021> | | |
| Legislative hearings | 1. **Massachusetts Legislature**   *Schedule of Joint Committee Hearings: October 2021*  <https://malegislature.gov/Events/Hearings/Joint/Calendar/10-01-2021> | | |
| Biden / federal proposals / policies | 1. **\*New York Times**   October 20, 2021  *A hearing aid for everyone*  Over-the-counter hearing aids have the potential to show government and tech companies at their best. . . the Food and Drug Administration started the process — after a long wait — to create a new category of [government-approved hearing aids that Americans will be able to buy without a prescription](https://nl.nytimes.com/f/newsletter/edktwDIvZc8F99RNEgNVsw~~/AAAAAQA~/RgRjUtMZP0ThaHR0cHM6Ly93d3cubnl0aW1lcy5jb20vMjAyMS8xMC8xOS9oZWFsdGgvaGVhcmluZy1haWQtZmRhLmh0bWw_Y2FtcGFpZ25faWQ9MTU4JmVtYz1lZGl0X290XzIwMjExMDIwJmluc3RhbmNlX2lkPTQzMzQ0Jm5sPW9uLXRlY2gtd2l0aC1zaGlyYS1vdmlkZSZyZWdpX2lkPTU0MjE1MDA4JnNlZ21lbnRfaWQ9NzIxODEmdGU9MSZ1c2VyX2lkPTE5ZjIyYTg3MGY3MGUyODJhMTBkNGU1YzRjNDBjYjk3VwNueXRCCmFvGU5wYQHaNqNSE3BsYW56aWtvc0BnbWFpbC5jb21YBAAAAAA~). Congress authorized over-the-counter hearing aids in 2017. . . Roughly 38 million American adults report [some degree of hearing loss](https://nl.nytimes.com/f/a/izVmfH6C20ZOfPiJmLbEYw~~/AAAAAQA~/RgRjUtMZP0T9aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cubmlkY2QubmloLmdvdi9oZWFsdGgvaGVhcmluZy1lYXItaW5mZWN0aW9ucy1kZWFmbmVzcy9hZHVsdC1oZWFyaW5nLWhlYWx0aC1jYXJlP2NhbXBhaWduX2lkPTE1OCZlbWM9ZWRpdF9vdF8yMDIxMTAyMCZpbnN0YW5jZV9pZD00MzM0NCZubD1vbi10ZWNoLXdpdGgtc2hpcmEtb3ZpZGUmcmVnaV9pZD01NDIxNTAwOCZzZWdtZW50X2lkPTcyMTgxJnRlPTEmdXNlcl9pZD0xOWYyMmE4NzBmNzBlMjgyYTEwZDRlNWM0YzQwY2I5N1cDbnl0QgphbxlOcGEB2jajUhNwbGFuemlrb3NAZ21haWwuY29tWAQAAAAA), and only a minority of people who could benefit from hearing aids use them.  <https://tinyurl.com/HearingAidForEveryone>   1. **\*Washington Post**   October 19, 2021  *Hearing aids without a prescription or an exam? The FDA takes big step toward making that happen.*  <https://tinyurl.com/HearingAidsNoPrescription>   1. **Wall Street Journal**   October 12, 2021  *Medicare Drug-Pricing Debate Pits Savings Against Innovation*  Proposal to allow Medicare to negotiate for lower prescription-drug prices is central to Democrats’ healthcare, childcare, education, and climate package  <https://tinyurl.com/MedicareDrugPricingDebate> | | |
| Podcasts | 1. **On the Media**   October 22, 2021  *Kurt Vonnegut and the Shape of the Pandemic*  Coronavirus has now infected 242 million people and taken over 4.9 million lives worldwide. How do those figures make you feel? Shock? Sorrow? Anything? The pandemic is still very much ongoing and yet many of us are just too spent, too confused to react anymore. Maybe we've simply reached a limit.  This week, On the Media correspondent [Micah Loewinger](https://twitter.com/MicahLoewinger?ref_src=twsrc%5Egoogle%7Ctwcamp%5Eserp%7Ctwgr%5Eauthor) looks to Kurt Vonnegut's theory of "the shapes of stories," to understand what kinds of narratives sustain our attention. Micah speaks with [Soren Wheeler](https://twitter.com/SorenWheeler?ref_src=twsrc%5Egoogle%7Ctwcamp%5Eserp%7Ctwgr%5Eauthor), executive editor of Radiolab, and Rachael Piltch-Loeb, a preparedness fellow at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, to make sense of how, and why, we lost the plot on Covid.  <https://tinyurl.com/VonnegutShapeOfPandemic>   1. **On the Media**   October 22, 2021  *A History of Miracles and Mistakes*  Over the course of the pandemic, we've had to grapple with the cost of both political and scientific decisions. But scientists have long known that errors and setbacks are part of the process of medical innovation — especially when the stakes are high. This week, Brooke sits down with [Dr. Paul Offit](https://twitter.com/DrPaulOffit), professor of pediatrics at the Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania, and author of the new book [*You Bet Your Life: From Blood Transfusions to Mass Vaccination, the Long and Risky History of Medical Innovation*](https://www.basicbooks.com/titles/paul-a-offit-md/you-bet-your-life/9781541620391/), to shed light on some of the times there's been a tragic, and at times unnecessary, price for moving medicine forward.  <https://tinyurl.com/MiraclesAndMistakes>   1. **On the Media**   October 22, 2021  *The Pandemic Words We're Still Getting Wrong*  This week, the FDA [approved](https://www.cnn.com/2021/10/20/health/moderna-johnson-vaccine-booster-fda-eua/index.html) booster shots for the Moderna and Johnson & Johnson vaccines. But what does the additional shot actually *do*? “Booster” is just one example of scientific jargon that’s crossed over from the medical lexicon to the parlance of us non-specialists—who are so eager to embrace language that clarifies the threats we do, or don't, face from the virus. Nowadays, we casually refer to Covid-19 tests, *asymptomatic* covid cases, and the *fully* vaccinated. But the fact is, we aren't deploying those words with precision, and so they confuse, rather than clarify. This week, Brooke talks to [Katherine J. Wu](https://twitter.com/KatherineJWu), staff writer at *The Atlantic,*about the [true definitions](https://www.theatlantic.com/science/archive/2021/10/covid-vocabulary-pandemic-words/620351/) of these words, what happens when we misuse them, and why "reminder shot" is a better name for a vaccine ["booster."](https://www.theatlantic.com/health/archive/2021/09/booster-bandits-ethics/620048/)  <https://tinyurl.com/PandemicWordsWrong>   1. **Texas Public Radio**   *Demented*  What happens when you become your parent's parent? That's what longtime NPR journalist Kitty Eisele had to figure out when she became a full-time caregiver for her dad. After moving back to her childhood home, she finds herself bewildered by the medical, legal, and emotional challenges of elder-care, to say nothing of the time her dad headed off on a 300-mile road trip without telling her. Kitty manages doctors' appointments and hospital stays, finds outpatient and assisted living options, and tries to keep her beloved dad safe and secure—all while figuring out how to pay for everything in a country that doesn't offer much support.  Through audio diaries and conversations with friends and experts, *Demented* explores how we help our loved ones live—and die—and what they mean to us.  The podcast gets its name from the feeling Kitty had when caring for her dad: He was experiencing cognitive decline, but she was the one losing her mind.  Latest episodes  [E5: How to Talk About Dying](https://www.tpr.org/podcast/demented/e5)  Kitty asks her dad what he thinks about death and the afterlife, then turns to a hospice chaplain who has discussions like that for a living.  [E4: I Never Used to Be Lonely](https://www.tpr.org/podcast/demented/e4)  Kitty talks with another caregiver about keeping their parents socially connected, even as their social skills decline.  [E3: Not Your Father's Barbershop](https://www.tpr.org/podcast/demented/e3)  After moving in with her dad, Kitty discovers a long list of new responsibilities she needs to figure out, like personal grooming.  [E2: No Good Answers](https://www.tpr.org/podcast/demented/e2)  In search of support, Kitty calls a friend who cared for her husband with Parkinson's.  [E1: Road Trip](https://www.tpr.org/podcast/demented/e1)  When her dad takes an impromptu road trip across the Midwest, Kitty is forced to reckon with his declining health.  <https://www.tpr.org/podcast/demented>   1. **National Consumer Voice for Quality Long-Term Care**   October 19, 2021  *A Discussion of Residents Rights*  This episode is a discussion that was held on Facebook Live around residents' rights in nursing homes. Lori Smetanka, Consumer Voice’s Executive Director, and Jocelyn Bogdan, Program and Policy Specialist at Consumer Voice talk about what impact COVID-19 has had on residents and their exercising of rights, they also provided an overview of residents' rights that exist in federal law.  **Resources Mentioned in this Episode:**   * [Residents' Rights Month Resources 2021](http://act.theconsumervoice.org/site/R?i=GF8IZVMfwUQFVOv-YuwzkYo7lEDQGLj_iZvPR8oYLTlmpTERuALplg) * [Residents' Rights Fact Sheet](http://act.theconsumervoice.org/site/R?i=RtXo_JAFZF2zuJ3upyBe-bfLD3VI7jkkV0_J9U8m4L5q6ETbxKr9fg) * [Limitations on Visitation and Daily Activities Negatively Impact the Lives of Nursing Home Residents: A Survey of Residents](http://act.theconsumervoice.org/site/R?i=nYU7afMRDOj2WJzlyA3pvMv-aHhVOnZJGajcCc501Vybo02oQLPaTg) * [Limitations on Visitation Continue to Harm Nursing Home Residents: A Survey of Residents' Families](http://act.theconsumervoice.org/site/R?i=opvI9Caiy-xJfOeoNTLK83MUSan9B93k96AsUmljxo33x4JOpsWUdA) * [Avoiding Drugs as Chemical Restraints Consumer Education Campaign](http://act.theconsumervoice.org/site/R?i=PPevV2YLRvHL1zik4S3fmIVAop-2T40Sg_MCMxAuuJQt2oIIj0vLrQ) * [Know Your Drugs & Know Your Rights Questions to ask your care provider and a list of drugs often used as chemical restraints](http://act.theconsumervoice.org/site/R?i=Ky6M-SucCThoK_LKb8ccYhMcLrtlX_TnerbCRXUx0WJSuNMd8uVVFA) * [Locate a Long-Term Care Ombudsman](http://act.theconsumervoice.org/site/R?i=dDQzNGq9ypjpzx9ET_5y5P8ku5yIyHSHiYP01RdiYDDIMj2mTApMBg)   <https://tinyurl.com/ConsumerVoicePodcast> | | |
| Webinars / Online sessions | 1. **Consumer Financial Protection Bureau**   Wednesday, October 27, 2021, 3:00 p.m.  *Preventing elder financial abuse: Help for long-term care communities*  This webinar is intended for stakeholders in the aging services field, including long-term care administrators and staff, long-term care ombudsmen, legal services attorneys, social workers, service coordinators, faith leaders, librarians, meal service providers, bank or credit union staff, law enforcement officers, and many others.  Presenters:   * Kate Kramer, Policy Analyst – CFPB, Office for Older Americans * Denise Wells, Executive Director – Nursing Home Ombudsman Agency of the Bluegrass   Event Number:        2763 982 2187 Event password:     NvmdAJMr\*824 (68632567 from phones)  <https://tinyurl.com/PreventingElderFinancialAbuse>   1. **AT3Center**   Wednesday, November 10, 2021, 3:00 p.m.  *Assistive Technology (AT) and Home & Community-Based Services (HCBS)*  AT is a critical service among long term services and supports (LTSS) that give people with disabilities an alternative to institutional care. Medicaid HCBS waivers are one important resource that provides AT. This webinar will share an overview of HCBS waivers, how the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) is giving states the opportunity to provide additional HCBS services and supports, and how AT Act programs are involved with their state’s HCBS waivers and other LTSS. After the webinar, participants will:   * Understand the purpose and kinds of services that can be provided through HCBS waivers and the waiver process. * Be aware of the types of activities states have included in their spending plans under the increase in dollars for HCBS provided through the ARPA. * Understand the kinds of activities state AT programs can undertake to improve access to AT in their HCBS and related LTSS.   <https://tinyurl.com/WebinarATAndHCBS> | | |
| Previously posted webinars and online sessions | **Previously posted webinars and online sessions can be viewed at:**  [**https://dignityalliancema.org/webinars-and-online-sessions/**](https://dignityalliancema.org/webinars-and-online-sessions/) | | |
| Nursing homes | 1. **National Consumer Voice for Quality Long-Term Care**   October 2021  *The Resident Advocate*  A free newsletter for long-term care residents containing news and information on rights, care issues, and updates on national policy.  <https://tinyurl.com/TheResidentAdvocateOct2021>   1. **National Consumer Voice for Quality Long-Term Care (podcast)**   October 19, 2021  *A Discussion of Residents Rights*  This episode is a discussion that was held on Facebook Live around residents' rights in nursing homes. Lori Smetanka, Consumer Voice’s Executive Director, and Jocelyn Bogdan, Program and Policy Specialist at Consumer Voice talk about what impact COVID-19 has had on residents and their exercising of rights, they also provided an overview of residents' rights that exist in federal law.  **Resources Mentioned in this Episode:**   * [Residents' Rights Month Resources 2021](http://act.theconsumervoice.org/site/R?i=GF8IZVMfwUQFVOv-YuwzkYo7lEDQGLj_iZvPR8oYLTlmpTERuALplg) * [Residents' Rights Fact Sheet](http://act.theconsumervoice.org/site/R?i=RtXo_JAFZF2zuJ3upyBe-bfLD3VI7jkkV0_J9U8m4L5q6ETbxKr9fg) * [Limitations on Visitation and Daily Activities Negatively Impact the Lives of Nursing Home Residents: A Survey of Residents](http://act.theconsumervoice.org/site/R?i=nYU7afMRDOj2WJzlyA3pvMv-aHhVOnZJGajcCc501Vybo02oQLPaTg) * [Limitations on Visitation Continue to Harm Nursing Home Residents: A Survey of Residents' Families](http://act.theconsumervoice.org/site/R?i=opvI9Caiy-xJfOeoNTLK83MUSan9B93k96AsUmljxo33x4JOpsWUdA) * [Avoiding Drugs as Chemical Restraints Consumer Education Campaign](http://act.theconsumervoice.org/site/R?i=PPevV2YLRvHL1zik4S3fmIVAop-2T40Sg_MCMxAuuJQt2oIIj0vLrQ) * [Know Your Drugs & Know Your Rights Questions to ask your care provider and a list of drugs often used as chemical restraints](http://act.theconsumervoice.org/site/R?i=Ky6M-SucCThoK_LKb8ccYhMcLrtlX_TnerbCRXUx0WJSuNMd8uVVFA) * [Locate a Long-Term Care Ombudsman](http://act.theconsumervoice.org/site/R?i=dDQzNGq9ypjpzx9ET_5y5P8ku5yIyHSHiYP01RdiYDDIMj2mTApMBg)   <https://tinyurl.com/ConsumerVoicePodcast> | | |
| Behavioral Health | 1. **\*Boston Globe**   October 16, 2021  *It’s becoming impossible to find a therapist*  Is it all because of COVID-19? And what do we do about it?  <https://tinyurl.com/ImpossibleFindTherapist>   1. **\*The Economist**   October 11, 2021  *Covid-19 has led to a sharp increase in depression and anxiety*  Women fared worse than men  The pandemic has taken a devastating toll on the physical health of millions of people. But the mental-health effects could prove even more enduring. A new study published in the Lancet, a medical journal, attempts to quantify the impact of covid-19 on mental health and wellbeing around the world.  <https://tinyurl.com/SharpIncreaseDepression>   1. **The Mighty**   May 30, 2021  *How Ableism Affects the Mental Health of Disabled People*  Ableism is the systemic oppression of people with disabilities and includes a lack of access to public buildings, the media’s often-negative depictions of disabled bodies, disregarding invisible physical or mental symptoms and the rampant use of “inspiration porn” and pity towards people with disabilities. Although these sometimes occur separately, the effects of a lifetime of feeling displaced or unwelcome in society often build up over time and significantly affect disabled people’s mental health. Studies have shown that [17.4 percent of people with disabilities](https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/disabilityandhealth/features/mental-health-for-all.html) experience “frequent mental distress” — a higher percentage than in the able-bodied, neurotypical population.  Additionally, [depression](https://themighty.com/topic/depression/) symptoms are two to 10 times more common in people with disabilities, and [higher levels of anxiety](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4143231/) have been reported in people with disabilities as well.  <https://tinyurl.com/AbleismAffectsMentalHealth> | | |
| Alzheimer’s / Dementia | 1. **\*New York Times**   October 21, 2021  *Plan Filed to Scrap Race as Factor in N.F.L. Concussion Settlement*  The revised agreement eliminates race as a consideration in evaluating dementia claims by former players. [Fewer than 700 of the more than 2,000 dementia-related claims](https://www.nflconcussionsettlement.com/Docs/10_18_21_report.pdf) have been approved in the settlement. The settlement also pays former players found to have Parkinson’s disease, Alzheimer’s disease, A.L.S. and chronic traumatic encephalopathy, or C.T.E., which can only be diagnosed posthumously. At least half of all former N.F.L. players are Black and roughly 70 percent of the players now in the league are Black.  <https://tinyurl.com/NFLConcussionSettlement>   1. **\*New York Times**   October 21, 2021  *Sales of Biogen’s costly new Alzheimer’s drug fall far short of expectations.*  The drug maker Biogen [reported](https://investors.biogen.com/static-files/6a28e04a-8b5d-4dc8-8efb-b80616f693af) . . . that Aduhelm, its new Alzheimer’s drug, brought in $300,000 in revenue from July to September, far short of the company’s goals and Wall Street expectations. Several prominent academic medical centers, including the Cleveland Clinic and Mount Sinai Health System in New York, have [decided not to give the drug](https://www.nytimes.com/2021/07/14/health/cleveland-clinic-aduhelm.html) to patients. Several regional Blue Cross Blue Shield health plans have declined to cover it, and in August, the Department of Veterans Affairs decided not to add the drug to its formulary of available medicines.  <https://tinyurl.com/ShortOfExpectations>   1. **Texas Public Radio**   *Demented*  What happens when you become your parent's parent? That's what longtime NPR journalist Kitty Eisele had to figure out when she became a full-time caregiver for her dad. After moving back to her childhood home, she finds herself bewildered by the medical, legal, and emotional challenges of elder-care, to say nothing of the time her dad headed off on a 300-mile road trip without telling her. Kitty manages doctors' appointments and hospital stays, finds outpatient and assisted living options, and tries to keep her beloved dad safe and secure—all while figuring out how to pay for everything in a country that doesn't offer much support.  Through audio diaries and conversations with friends and experts, *Demented* explores how we help our loved ones live—and die—and what they mean to us.  The podcast gets its name from the feeling Kitty had when caring for her dad: He was experiencing cognitive decline, but she was the one losing her mind.  Latest episodes  [E5: How to Talk About Dying](https://www.tpr.org/podcast/demented/e5)  Kitty asks her dad what he thinks about death and the afterlife, then turns to a hospice chaplain who has discussions like that for a living.  [E4: I Never Used to Be Lonely](https://www.tpr.org/podcast/demented/e4)  Kitty talks with another caregiver about keeping their parents socially connected, even as their social skills decline.  [E3: Not Your Father's Barbershop](https://www.tpr.org/podcast/demented/e3)  After moving in with her dad, Kitty discovers a long list of new responsibilities she needs to figure out, like personal grooming.  [E2: No Good Answers](https://www.tpr.org/podcast/demented/e2)  In search of support, Kitty calls a friend who cared for her husband with Parkinson's.  [E1: Road Trip](https://www.tpr.org/podcast/demented/e1)  When her dad takes an impromptu road trip across the Midwest, Kitty is forced to reckon with his declining health.  <https://www.tpr.org/podcast/demented> | | |
| Veteran Services / Holyoke Soldiers’ Home | 1. **Today with Hoda & Jenna (video)**   October 21, 2021  *How a 79-year-old Navy veteran became a TikTok sensation*  Kenny Jary is a 79-year-old veteran whose scooter broke and TikTok users raised over $100,000 for buy him a new one. As Jary’s following has grown to over 1 million and donations keep pouring in, he pays it forward by buying scooters for fellow veterans.  <https://tinyurl.com/NavyVeteranTikTokSensation>   1. **Stars and Stripes**   September 27, 2021  *Broken-down mobility scooter propels Navy veteran to TikTok fame, tests limits of generosity*  A repairman gave Jary the bad news that his American flag-adorned scooter, which he’d been riding around on since 2003, was beyond repair because parts for such an old model were no longer available. The viral videos led to an outpouring of generosity by viewers that will not only buy two new scooters for Jary — a portable one and a “fancy” one — but 10 more for other veterans in need of such wheels. . . [D]onors [have] contributed more than $110,000 to the GoFundMe account “Patriotic Kenny Needs a Ride” – far surpassing the original goal of $5,000.  <https://tinyurl.com/BrokenDownMobilityScooter> | | |
| Workforce / Caregiving | 1. **\*New York Times**   October 24, 2021  *Their Jobs Made Them Get Vaccinated. They Refused.*  The willingness of some workers to give up their livelihoods helps explain the country’s struggle to contain the pandemic. Under the threat of losing their jobs, hundreds of thousands of New Yorkers finally got a Covid-19 vaccine. Teachers, nurses, and home health aides accepted their occupations’ mandates. The mass resignations some experts had predicted did not occur, as most workers hurriedly got inoculated. Those who are holding out cite different reasons for their choice: The vaccines are too new, too risky, pumped out too quickly, some said. Others cited their religious faith. Many, citing what they say are American values of independence, refused in part because they objected to being forced. According to C.D.C. data, unvaccinated people are 4.5 times more likely to contract the coronavirus, and [11 times more likely to die](https://www.nytimes.com/2021/09/11/world/the-cdc-reports-that-unvaccinated-americans-are-11-times-more-likely-to-die-if-infected-the-week-in-covid-news.html) from their infection than those who are vaccinated.  <https://tinyurl.com/GetVaccinatedTheyRefused>   1. **STAT News**   October 21, 2021  *WHO estimate: 115,000 health workers have died from Covid-19, as calls for vaccine access grow*  The 115,000 figure comes from a working paper that has a broader estimate of 80,000 to 180,000 health care worker deaths through May 2021. The numbers are based on the total reported death toll at that point of 3.45 million, which is an underestimate given that some deaths are not reported. The current death toll stands at 4.92 million.  Annette Kennedy, the president of the International Council of Nurses, argued that governments had forsaken their duty to protect health care workers and warned that pandemic would have long tail effects, with many nurses considering leaving the workforce. She also noted that the high-income countries that were hoarding vaccines and had started booster campaigns “aggressively” recruit nurses from other countries “who cannot afford to lose their nurses or their health care workers.”  <https://tinyurl.com/115000HealthWorkersDied> | | |
| Covid-19 | 1. **New York Times (free access)**   October 19, 2021  *The Threat, in Perspective*  Colin Powell’s death highlights the continuing Covid risks to older people with medical conditions.  Colin Powell’s death at 84 underscores the continuing risk that Covid-19 presents to older people — even if they are fully vaccinated, as Powell was. For vaccinated Americans in their 70s and 80s, Covid remains more dangerous on average than many other everyday risks, including falls, choking, gunshot wounds or vehicle accidents. . . For older people who are healthy, the risks may be more tolerable. Covid is probably not vastly more dangerous than other activities that people do without thinking — like driving a vehicle or climbing a flight of stairs — but it is not zero risk, either.  As a country, what can we do to protect older people from Covid? The data points to at least three good answers.   * Reduce caseloads * Give booster shots * Expand rapid testing   <https://tinyurl.com/TheThreatInPerspective>   1. **\*New York Times**   October 19, 2021  *What We Know About Covid, the Flu and the Air We Breathe*  Covid-19 is not the only respiratory infection the globe has been fighting, especially in the colder months. Last winter, the [flu nearly disappeared](https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2021/04/22/science/flu-season-coronavirus-pandemic.html) worldwide because precautions taken against Covid-19, including masks and social distancing, also worked to prevent it. These precautions may have been especially powerful against the flu because they were layered upon some protective immunity people had built up from years of prior exposure to various flu viruses. There was no such protection from Covid-19, which was novel. This year could be different, as people return to their usual activities and precautions are relaxed. But by embracing what’s been learned from SARS-CoV-2, the coronavirus that causes Covid-19 — including newer thinking on how respiratory viruses spread in general — the world can change the trajectory of flu seasons, potentially saving tens of thousands of lives in the process.  <https://tinyurl.com/WhatWeKnowAboutCovid>   1. **\*The Economist**   October 16, 2021  *How the world learns to live with covid-19*  From pandemic to epidemic  Winter 2025 could, with luck, be normal. Health-care systems will come under strain, as always, from the spread of respiratory diseases that land people in hospital. Influenza will afflict the elderly. Respiratory syncytial virus will make some children gravely ill. And a newish seasonal disease will belong in the mix: covid-19. It will overwhelmingly sicken the old, even more than flu. But, outside hospitals, life will continue largely uninterrupted.  <https://tinyurl.com/PandemicToEpidemic>   1. **\*The Economist**   October 16, 2021  *Millions of lives depend on how the pandemic ends*  The world can see the end of the covid-19 emergency, but some daunting tasks lie ahead. All pandemics end eventually. Covid-19 has started down that path, but it will not be eradicated. Instead, it will gradually become endemic. In that state, circulating and mutating from year to year, the coronavirus will remain a threat to the elderly and infirm. But having settled down, it is highly unlikely to kill on the monstrous scale of the past 20 months. Covid will then be a familiar, manageable enemy, like the flu.  <https://tinyurl.com/MillionsOfLives>   1. **STAT News**   October 14, 2021  *The hidden cost of Covid-19: years of life lost among the young*  [a recent study](https://www.acpjournals.org/doi/full/10.7326/M21-2239) showed that the Covid-19 pandemic has stolen an enormous amount of life from young and old alike. Because of the pandemic, Americans will celebrate at least 9 million fewer birthdays in the years to come, and more than half of them were lost to people under age 65. . . Part of the reason that the pandemic has stolen so much life is that Covid weaponizes chronic health conditions that would not otherwise [shorten life expectancy](https://www.statnews.com/2021/02/18/u-s-life-expectancy-fell-by-a-year-in-the-first-half-of-2020-cdc-report-finds/) by much. The case of obesity, a major risk factor for Covid-19 death, helps illustrate. Even living with obesity, a 40-year-old can expect to live for more than 30 years. Those years evaporate with a Covid-19 death. . .[T]he average Covid-19 death among those aged 45 to 54 years resulted in the loss of 29 years of life, slightly below life expectancy for that age group but still an enormous loss of life.  <https://tinyurl.com/STATHiddenCostCovid>   1. **Administration on Community Living**   October 13, 2021  *COVID-19 Vaccine Access in Long-Term Care Settings*  “Long-term care settings” include any location where older adults, people with disabilities or chronic health conditions, or people otherwise needing assistance with activities of daily living receive services or supports. These can include both medical care and non-medical care. Examples of long-term care settings include, but are not limited to:   * Skilled nursing and nursing facilities (also known as nursing homes); * Intermediate care facilities for individuals with intellectual disabilities (ICFs-IID); * Inpatient psychiatric settings, including psychiatric residential treatment facilities (PRTFs); * Inpatient substance use disorder facilities and residential settings for people with substance use disorders; * Assisted living settings for older adults and people with disabilities, including assisted living facilities, independent living facilities, residential care and continuing care retirement communities, personal care homes, and board and care homes; * Senior housing, including Section 202 and other HUD-assisted housing that primarily serves older adults; * Housing for people with disabilities, including Section 811 HUD-assisted housing, Housing Opportunities for People living With AIDS (HOPWA), and other HUD-assisted housing that primarily serves people with disabilities; * Residential settings for people with disabilities and older adults, including group homes, shared living, adult foster care, and transitional housing; * Congregate day programs, including adult day programs, [PACE](https://www.cms.gov/Medicare-Medicaid-Coordination/Medicare-and-Medicaid-Coordination/Medicare-Medicaid-Coordination-Office/PACE/PACE) * programs, day habilitation programs, and other community-based day service programs; and * Senior center programs and congregate nutrition programs.   <https://tinyurl.com/VaccineAccessLTCSettings>   1. **Wall Street Journal (free access)**   October 12, 2021  *Vaccines Help Fight Long Covid*  Long Covid is one of the most baffling effects of Covid-19. An estimated 10% to 30% of people develop symptoms that last for months after their initial infection, including fatigue, cognitive problems, shortness of breath or racing heartbeat. Doctors don’t fully understand the condition and [have few options for treatment](https://www.wsj.com/articles/for-covid-long-haulers-a-little-known-diagnosis-offers-possible-treatmentsand-new-challenges-11606761541?mod=article_inline). A September study in the medical journal Lancet found that fully vaccinated people [who got a breakthrough infection](https://www.wsj.com/articles/breakthrough-cases-covid-19-delta-variant-11627596643?mod=article_inline) were about 50% less likely to develop long Covid than unvaccinated people with Covid-19. In the vaccinated group, 5% of people developed long Covid, compared with 11.5% in the unvaccinated group.  <https://tinyurl.com/VaccinesHe6lpFightLongCovid>   1. **\*New York Times**   October 5, 2021 (updated)  *They Shunned Covid Vaccines but Embraced Antibody Treatment*  Championed by doctors and conservative radio hosts alike, monoclonal antibodies for Covid are in high demand — even from those who don’t want a vaccine*.*  <https://tinyurl.com/SunnedVaccineEmbracedTreatment>   1. **Bloomberg City Lab**   September 25, 2021  *The Rise of the Pandemic Dashboard*  Governments around the world have created online tools for the public to view the latest data on Covid-19, but some platforms are better than others.  <https://tinyurl.com/RisePandemicDashboard> | | |
| Disability Rights | 1. **Marketplace (NPR audio report)**   October 25, 2021  *Coming soon to 250 AMC cinemas: English subtitles on every film*  AMC, the country’s largest movie theater operator, [is introducing](https://investor.amctheatres.com/newsroom/news-details/2021/AMC-Theatres-Launches-Open-Caption-Program-in-101-U.S.-Markets/default.aspx) open captioning — English subtitles, in other words — to help the tens of millions of Americans who’ve experienced some level of hearing loss. AMC will roll it out at 250 cinemas in 100 metro markets.  <https://tinyurl.com/EnglishSubstitlesEveryFilm>   1. **\*New York Times**   October 25, 2021 (updated)  *A Future for People with Disabilities in Outer Space Takes Flight*  People with different types of disabilities tested their skills and technologies on a zero-gravity research flight with the goal of proving that they can safely go to space. . . [Eric Ingram, the 31-year-old chief executive of SCOUT Inc., a smart satellite components company, and who has Freeman-Sheldon Syndrome,] was one of 12 disabled passengers who swam through the air aboard a parabolic flight in Southern California last Sunday in an experiment testing how people with disabilities fare in a zero-gravity environment. Parabolic flights, which fly within Earth’s atmosphere in alternating upward and downward arcs, allow passengers to experience zero gravity for repeated short bursts, and are a regular part of training for astronauts. The flight was organized by AstroAccess, a nonprofit initiative that aims to make spaceflight accessible to all.  <https://tinyurl.com/DisabilitiesInOuterSpace>   1. **CommonWealth Magazine**   October 23, 2021  *Mass. lags badly in workplace accessibility for disability community*  It's time for lawmakers to address barriers that keep people from jobs  According to data from the Census Bureau’s [American Community Survey](https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/index.xhtml) compiled by the University of New Hampshire, only 37.7 percent of people with disabilities are employed in Massachusetts, compared to 80.2 percent of people without disabilities — a gap of 42.5 percentage points. This places us 40th out of 50 states. Perhaps this state’s deficiency has something to do with the fact that our law keeps many jobs out of reach of people with mobility impairments.  There are bills pending in the House and the Senate that would enforce accessibility in workplaces when the buildings in which they are located are new or substantially renovated. They are the Accessible MA Act (SB1629) and the Accessible Workplaces MA Act (HB2419). What better way to fulfill the promise of National Disability Employment Awareness Month, made 76 years ago, “to commemorate the many and varied contributions of people with disabilities to America’s workplaces and economy” than to pass this legislation that would give people with disabilities in Massachusetts the opportunity to work.  <https://tinyurl.com/MALagsWorkplaceAccessibility>   1. **NPR**   October 21, 2021  *The world's largest movie theater chain is adding open captions at 240 U.S. locations*  "Inclusive programming is core to AMC's strategy, and we're proud to lead the theatrical exhibition industry by making some open caption showtimes available at hundreds of our locations nationwide," Elizabeth Frank, AMC's chief content officer and executive vice president of worldwide programming, [said in a statement](https://investor.amctheatres.com/newsroom/news-details/2021/AMC-Theatres-Launches-Open-Caption-Program-in-101-U.S.-Markets/default.aspx). Open captions — similar to subtitles — appear on the screen and cannot be turned off, while closed captioning is displayed on electronic devices that customers must request. The company says the "vast majority" of showtimes will continue to be offered with closed captioning, meaning it will still make assisted listening devices available at all of its locations.  <https://tinyurl.com/AddingOpenCaptions>   1. **\*New York Times**   October 18, 2021  *‘Disability Drives Innovation’*  Audiobooks are an example of a technology developed by or for people with disabilities that has helped all of us. Do you [love audiobooks](https://www.nytimes.com/2021/10/06/opinion/audiobooks-better-than-reading.html)? “You have blind people to thank for that,” said [Catherine Kudlick](https://history.sfsu.edu/people/faculty/catherine-kudlick), director of the Paul K. Longmore Institute on Disability at San Francisco State University. The godfather of the book being read aloud through your smartphone headphones was [Talking Books](https://www.afb.org/blog/entry/helen-keller-and-talking-books-priceless-boon), the records developed in the 1930s in the United States for people with impaired vision as an alternative to Braille. Audiobooks are a prime example of a technology developed by or for people with disabilities that has helped all of us. They remind us that people with disabilities are not an afterthought in invention but key players.  <https://tinyurl.com/DisabilityDrivesInnovation>   1. **New York Times (free access)**   October 10, 2021  *Helen Keller and the Problem of ‘Inspiration Porn’*  [Dr. M. Leona Godin, a writer, performer and educator and the author of “There Plant Eyes: A Personal and Cultural History of Blindness.”] see[s Helen} Keller’s mainstream image and story as a textbook example of “[inspiration porn](https://www.nytimes.com/2021/09/05/sports/olympics/inspiration-porn-paralympians-know-it-when-they-see-it.html),” where disabled people’s lives are flattened into saccharine narratives about overcoming adversity, usually designed to make nondisabled people feel uplifted and grateful. . . In “The Radical Lives of Helen Keller” I found a new sort of narrative, and it was a revelation. I learned about Keller’s expansive and often controversial work to promote human rights — for women, for workers, for people of color. I learned that in her long life (1880-1968) she was a socialist, a suffragist and a founding member of the American Civil Liberties Union. And of special interest to me as an artist, I learned that Keller and her teacher, Anne Sullivan, performed on the vaudeville circuit from 1920 to 1924. I would take that delicious tidbit — which some of her friends called a “deplorable theatrical exhibition”— and spin it into a one-woman show, “The Star of Happiness,” a move that shifted the direction of my life into the arts. . . How can we move our understanding of disability forward by telling and retelling the story of this one amazing but decades-gone figure? Today’s disabled artists, writers and activists are responding to a world entirely changed since Keller gave her last speech in 1961. Yet, with some exceptions, our mainstream conversations about disability have stagnated. . . The extremes of disabled representation that we usually find in mainstream media — superhuman disabled people on the one hand, pitiful creatures in need of a cure on the other — are created, almost exclusively, by nondisabled people for nondisabled people. This perhaps explains why they are so redundant and out of touch with our experience. It would be laughable if those images did not translate directly into discrimination in the workplace, in the medical establishment, in our creative institutions. I and other blind writers experience this in both obvious and subtle ways. For instance, we often hear from editors and other decision makers, “Oh, we like this work, but we just published a blind author.” Culturally speaking, it reinforces the idea that we can have only one blind person at a time in the room.  <https://tinyurl.com/ProblemOfInspirationPorn> | | |
| Superfest Disability Film Festival | 1. **Superfest Disability Film Festival**   <http://www.superfestfilm.com/>  Superfest Disability Film Festival is the longest running disability film festival in the world. Since it first debuted in a small Los Angeles showcase in 1970 it has become an eagerly anticipated international event—hosted by Paul K. Longmore Institute on Disability at San Francisco State. For more than 30 years, Superfest has celebrated cutting-edge cinema that portrays disability through a diverse, complex, unabashed, and engaging lens. Superfest is one of the few festivals worldwide that prioritizes access for disabled filmgoers of all kinds.  Superfest 2021 Film Selections (<http://www.superfestfilm.com/2021-films>)  **Aim Straight**, USA, 2020 (Animated Short, 2 min)  When everyone’s laughing at you for being a lousy hunter, you’re in the woods being chased by a monster, and you only have one leg, you only have one choice: fight back!  **An Apparition**, India, 2020 (Experimental Short, 2 min)  What can we learn from the most despised insects about lockdown and embodiment? This film celebrates the ingenuity of a disabled filmmaker who is grappling with the pandemic and working with the actors he had access to.  **Best Summer Ever**, USA, 2020 (Feature Film, 72 min)  A high school football player is shocked to discover that the new girl in school is the same girl he fell in love with at a summer dance camp.  **CODA**, USA, 2019 (Dramatic Short, 20 min)  A young dancer struggles with her bi-cultural identity when she meets a confident young Deaf drummer who stirs up old, conflicted feelings about growing up hearing in a Deaf family.  **Dead End Drive**, USA, 2020 (Dramatic Short, 15 min)  During the zombie apocalypse, one survivor finds a dead end that will hopefully lead him to salvation. (This project was created with over half of the cast and crew being comprised of people with disabilities, including the writer, all of the cast, and most of the producers.)  **Flight Paths,** Innovation in Craft Award, UK, 2020 (Interactive)  Part film, part video game, part history lesson, this whimsical animated choose-your-own adventure takes us into the world of ‘the Goze’, blind female travelling performers of medieval Japan. Produced by Extant, the UK’s leading company of visually impaired artists, Flight Path shares how access can be both innovative and fully integrated. Join this meditative reflection on travel, blindness, and migration.  **Hamburger Airplane**, USA, 2020 (Dramatic Short, 16 min)  A dramedy about a Deaf loner in his lake-condo as he takes on the challenge of grilling up the perfect hamburger and confronting his traumatic past, all while using witty, passionate ASL to persuade a trophy deer.  **Here Comes Frieda**, USA, 2020 (Dramatic Short, 9 min),  As yet another superstorm bears down on a desperate, weary city in the year 2040, a young blind woman seeks to redeem her winning sweepstakes ticket for a better life in a low Earth orbit paradise.  **If You Could Touch Me Now**, Denmark, 2021 (Experimental Short, 5 min)  In this meditation on longing and savoring of a body considered off-limits, an autistic student filmmaker at The Royal Conservatoire of Scotland takes on the most solid yet ephemeral sense, touch.  **ill, actually**, UK, 2019 (Short Documentary, 12 min)  This short documentary explores the challenges of being young and chronically ill in a carefully curated online culture. A real life "superhero", a YouTuber and a camgirl explain why they **choose to share - or hide - important parts of who they are online.**  **Innocence**, UK, 2019 (Dramatic Short, 20 min)  When a worker falls to his death at a care home, it appears to be a terrible accident. But when a detective questions a young man with Down syndrome spotted at the scene, they uncover a crime more shocking than anyone imagined.  **Lobster**, Australia, 2018 (Dramatic Short, 6 min)  In this public service announcement like no other, Cam's hungover, lost, vomit-stained, dealing with a very rude visitor, and totally in the dark. On the other hand, er, claw, she has an advantage that many Aussies can only dream about.  **Loving with Three Hearts**, USA, 2021 (Short Documentary, 30 min)  What does it take for a group of Disabled, Black, Indigenous, Queer, Trans, Non-Binary and People of Color to create a full-length theatrical production about the impacts of climate chaos on disabled people, in the midst of a pandemic? In 2020, Sins Invalid commissioned seven artists in four cities to create We Love Like Barnacles: Crip Lives in Climate Chaos, which streamed to over 1000 audience members. This labor of love explored and exposed the ways crip bodies are on the front lines of ecological disaster, and how our politics, dreams, and desires hold necessary keys for the evolution of this planet. Get a behind-the-scenes look at how it came together, and why it needed to happen.  **Not a Wallflower,** Australia, 2019 (Dramatic Short, 8 min)  Ben, a spritely young autistic man has a bright future. Except when it comes to his boss. And finding love. Will he bloom beyond the wallflowers?  **Pew! Pew! Pew!,** USA, 2020 (Dramatic Short, 13 min)  When Miles tries to rejoin his geeky crew at a cosplay convention, Anita is having none of it. But before she can send him packing, the devious Lord Moro ambushes the crew, forcing these old friends to reunite in an epic, cosplay "blaster" battle.  **Reasonable Adjustment**, UK, 2021 (Dramatic Short, 7 min)  In the 1980s a disabled terror group Reasonable Adjustment carried out a campaign of violence to gain rights - or did they?  **See Through**, USA, 2021 (Dramatic Short, 9 min)  Jessie and Brian, a young Deaf couple, recently discovered they are about to become parents. Their neighborhood coffee shop thrums with everything left unsaid, while they unearth new ways to communicate.  **Sign Night**, Juror’s Choice Award, UK, 2020 (Experimental Short, 6 min)  Inspired by the balcony performers of Wuhan and Lombardy during the 2020 pandemic, Sign Night is a poetic conversation between two star crossed lovers in British sign language projected onto buildings in a rugged urban landscape.  **Sparkles**, Australia, 2020 (Dramatic Short, 13 min)  A 37-year-old Australian woman with Down syndrome runs away from home and embarks on a journey from Kalgoorlie to Perth.  **Still a Slave**, Best Audio Description Award, UK, 2020 (Experimental Short, 5 min)  An artistic response to many of the comments posted on social media that undermine the Black Lives Matter Movement, this arresting film integrates The Rationale Method of audio description using sound effects and spoken word.  **What If?,** UK, 2020 (Dramatic Short, 10 min)  After a bad break-up, Jess focuses on rebuilding her life and her self-esteem. Dating someone new might help, but what if it all goes wrong? Only one way to find out.  **Yulubidyi - Until the End**. Best of Festival Award Australia, 2017 (Dramatic Short, 13 min)  What does it mean to be a man in an Aboriginal family when your brother is disabled, and your father is cruel? And how do you reconcile your brother’s clear connections to land and spirit when your father wants him, and quite possibly you, dead? | | |
| Criminal Justice | 1. **Health Affairs Blog**   October 19, 2021  *Incarceration Is a Health Threat. Why Isn’t It Monitored Like One?*  The United States has the highest incarceration rate in the world. In 2020, approximately [2.3 million people were under the supervision of the criminal legal system](https://www.prisonpolicy.org/reports/pie2020.html). If people in the US who were incarcerated at any given time made up an entire city, it would be among the five largest cities in the country. The burden is not distributed equally; racist origins of incarceration have led to an overrepresentation of Black, Indigenous, and people of color behind the walls. Black Americans are incarcerated in state prisons at a rate that is [more than five times higher](https://www.sentencingproject.org/publications/color-of-justice-racial-and-ethnic-disparity-in-state-prisons) than that of White Americans. One in three Black men and one in six Latino men born in 2001 [can expect to be incarcerated](https://www.vera.org/downloads/publications/for-the-record-unjust-burden-racial-disparities.pdf) at some point in their lives.  Incarceration is a structural determinant of individual health that [also worsens population health](https://healthandjusticejournal.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/2194-7899-1-3). People who are incarcerated are [more likely](https://academic.oup.com/cid/article/45/8/1047/344842) than the general population to experience a chronic condition or acquire an infectious disease. In the past year, people who were incarcerated were about [five times more likely](https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama/fullarticle/2768249) than the general population to test positive for COVID-19. Health effects are further amplified across communities. Communities with high rates of incarceration are [more likely to experience poor mental health](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/30205278/). Families of people who are incarcerated experience community fragmentation and disruption of social ties that negatively [impact mental and familial health](https://www.annualreviews.org/doi/abs/10.1146/annurev-lawsocsci-102510-105459). The health risks of incarceration are [only heightened after release](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/28402828/). People recently released from incarceration are more likely to die; in the first two weeks following release, risk of death among formerly incarcerated individuals was [12.7 times higher than that of the general population](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/labs/pmc/articles/PMC2836121/). For these reasons, an emerging body of work recognizes that incarceration is a negative structural determinant of health and recommends [moving toward the abolition of carceral systems](https://www.apha.org/policies-and-advocacy/public-health-policy-statements/policy-database/2021/01/14/advancing-public-health-interventions-to-address-the-harms-of-the-carceral-system).  <https://tinyurl.com/IncarecerationAHealthThreat>   1. **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention**   October 19, 2021  *Correctional and Detention Facilities*  *Covid 19 Resources for people who work and reside in prisons, jails, and detention centers.*  <https://tinyurl.com/Covid19ResourcesCorrectSites> | | |
| Other | 1. **\*New York Times**   October 21, 2021  *At 90, a Composer Is Still Sending Out Blasts*  Sofia Gubaidulina and her richly colored, rhythmically adventurous music are being celebrated around the world this season.  <https://tinyurl.com/CompserStillSendingBlasts>   1. **\*New York Times**   October 19, 2021  *In a First, Surgeons Attached a Pig Kidney to a Human, and It Worked*  A kidney grown in a genetically altered pig functions normally, scientists reported. The procedure may open the door to a renewable source of desperately needed organs. A steady supply of organs from pigs — which could eventually include hearts, lungs, and livers — would offer a lifeline to the more than 100,000 Americans currently on transplant waiting lists, including the 90,240 who need a kidney. Twelve people on the waiting lists die each day. An even larger number of Americans with kidney failure — more than a half million — depend on grueling dialysis treatments to survive. In large part because of the scarcity of human organs, the vast majority of dialysis patients do not qualify for transplants, which are reserved for those most likely to thrive after the procedure.  <https://tinyurl.com/SurgeonsAttachPigKidney>   1. **National Council on Aging**   October 13, 2021  *Kathy Greenlee Installed as New NCOA Board Chair*  The National Council on Aging (NCOA) . . . announced the appointment of Kathy Greenlee, former U.S. Assistant Secretary for Aging, as the new Chair of its Board of Directors.  <https://tinyurl.com/NCOAAppointsGreenlee> | | |
|  | \*May require registration before accessing article. | | |
| Dignity Alliance Massachusetts Legislative Endorsements | Information about the legislative bills which have been endorsed by Dignity Alliance Massachusetts, including the text of the bills, can be viewed at:  <https://tinyurl.com/DignityLegislativeEndorsements>  Questions or comments can be directed to Legislative Work Group Chair Richard (Dick) Moore at [rmoore8473@charter.net](mailto:rmoore8473@charter.net). | | |
| Websites | **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases (NCIRD)**  *Weekly U.S. Influenza Surveillance Report*  <https://tinyurl.com/CDCFluView>  A weekly influenza surveillance report prepared by the Influenza Division  **Paul K. Longmore Institute on Disability**  [**https://longmoreinstitute.sfsu.edu/**](https://longmoreinstitute.sfsu.edu/)  The Paul K. Longmore Institute on Disability at San Francisco State University studies and showcases disabled people's experiences to revolutionize social views. Through public education, scholarship and cultural events, the Institute shares disability history and theory, promotes critical thinking and builds a broader community.  **Superfest Disability Film Festival**  <http://www.superfestfilm.com/>  Superfest Disability Film Festival is the longest running disability film festival in the world. Since it first debuted in a small Los Angeles showcase in 1970 it has become an eagerly anticipated international event—hosted by Paul K. Longmore Institute on Disability at San Francisco State. For more than 30 years, Superfest has celebrated cutting-edge cinema that portrays disability through a diverse, complex, unabashed, and engaging lens. Superfest is one of the few festivals worldwide that prioritizes access for disabled filmgoers of all kinds. | | |
| Previously recommended websites | The comprehensive list of recommended websites has migrated to the Dignity Alliance MA website: <https://dignityalliancema.org/resources/>. Only new recommendations will be listed in *The Tuesday Digest.* | | |
| Previously posted funding opportunities | For open funding opportunities previously posted in *The Tuesday Digest* please see <https://dignityalliancema.org/funding-opportunities/>. | | |
| Nursing Home Closures | **Heathwood Healthcare** 188 Florence St. Chestnut Hill, MA 02467  Scheduled to be closed by January 5, 2021   * [Notice of Intent to Close (Word)](https://www.mass.gov/doc/notice-of-intent-to-close-heathwood-healthcare/download) * [Draft of Relocation Plan (Word)](https://www.mass.gov/doc/draft-of-relocation-plan-heathwood-healthcare/download)   Closure Notices and Relocation Plans available at: <https://tinyurl.com/MANursingHomeClosures> | | |
| Websites of Dignity Alliance Massachusetts Members | See: <https://dignityalliancema.org/about/organizations/> | | |
| **Participation opportunities with Dignity Alliance Massachusetts**  Most workgroups meet bi-weekly via Zoom.  Please contact workgroup lead for more information | **Workgroup** | **Workgroup lead** | **Email** |
| General Membership | Bill Henning  Paul Lanzikos | [bhenning@bostoncil.org](mailto:bhenning@bostoncil.org)  [paul.lanzikos@gmail.com](mailto:paul.lanzikos@gmail.com) |
| Behavioral Health | Frank Baskin | [baskinfrank19@gmail.com](mailto:baskinfrank19@gmail.com) |
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| Topical Conversations | Lachan Forrow | [lforrow@bidmc.harvard.edu](mailto:lforrow@bidmc.harvard.edu) |
| Veteran Services | James Lomastro | [jimlomastro@comcast.net](mailto:jimlomastro@comcast.net) |
| ***The Tuesday Digest*** | For a free weekly subscription to *The Tuesday Digest:*  <https://dignityalliancema.org/contact/sign-up-for-emails/> | | |
| Note of thanks | Thanks to the contributors to this issue of *The Tuesday Digest*   * Chris Hoeh * Sandy Novack * Carol Steinberg   Special thanks to Sue Rorke and Paul Spooner with the MetroWest Center for Independent Living for their assistance with the website and MailChimp versions of *The Tuesday Digest.*  *If you have submissions for inclusion in The Tuesday Digest or have questions or comments, please submit them to* [*paul.lanzikos@gmail.com*](mailto:paul.lanzikos@gmail.com)*.* | | |
| *Dignity Alliance Massachusetts is a broad-based coalition of organizations and individuals pursuing fundamental changes in the provision of long-term services, support, and care for older adults and persons with disabilities.*  *Our guiding principle is the assurance of dignity for those receiving the services as well as for those providing them.*  *The information presented in “The Tuesday Digest” is obtained from publicly available sources and does not necessarily represent positions held by Dignity Alliance Massachusetts.*  *Previous issues of The Tuesday Digest are available at:* [*https://dignityalliancema.org/the-tuesday-digest/*](https://dignityalliancema.org/the-tuesday-digest/)  *For more information about Dignity Alliance Massachusetts, please visit* [*www.DignityAllianceMA.org*](http://www.DignityAllianceMA.org)*.* | | | |